

City of Havelock Sign Ordinance

§91.03 PLACEMENT, AND THE LIKE, OF OBSTRUCTIONS ON STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND THE LIKE.

No brick, stone, or wood or other substance obstructing the free passage of persons and vehicles shall be placed or suffered to lie in any of the alleyways, streets, or public sidewalks of the City, and no person shall place on or in any of the streets, public sidewalks, or alleyways of the City any boxes, crates, or any other obstruction of any kind.

(1989 Code §14-3) (Ord. passed 5-8-1972) Penalty, see §10.99

§91.10 POSTING SIGNS

It shall be unlawful for any person to post any bill, placard, poster, sign, or advertisement on any telegraph, telephone, or electric light pole, tree, or any traffic-control sign or supporting structure thereof along any of the streets or sidewalks of the City. (1989 Code §14-9) (Ord. passed 5-8-1972) Penalty, see §10.99

§91.17 HANGING OR SUSPENDING SIGNS

It shall be unlawful for any person to hang or suspend any sign at less than eight feet from the ground over or above the sidewalks or streets. Any sign permitted by this section shall be kept securely fastened at all times.

(1989 Code §14-16) (Ord. passed 5-8-1972) Penalty, see §10.99

City of New Bern Sign Ordinance

Section 15-324 Certain temporary signs: permit exemptions and additional regulations.

(a) The following temporary signs are permitted without a zoning, special use, conditional use, or sign permit. However, such signs shall conform to the requirements set forth below as well as all other applicable requirements of this ordinance except those contained in sections 15-327 (total sign surface area) and 15-329 (number of freestanding signs).

(5) **Signs erected in connection with elections or political campaigns.** Such signs shall be removed within three days following the election or conclusion of the campaign. No such sign may exceed 32 square feet in area.

(b) **Temporary signs cannot be located within street rights-of-way or public property unless approved by the board of alderman or its designee.** Such signs include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) All signs listed in subsection (a) of this same section.

(b) Signs made of paper, cloth, polyethylene film or other similar material, whether or not they include wood as a part of the structure.

(c) Signs that are not permanently affixed to the ground or a building surface in manner approved by the building inspector.

(d) Trailer signs (includes such signs without trailer).

(e) Portable signs.

NOTE: August 2015, February 2016; per Matt Montayne, Director of Public Works, signs in the city rights-of-way are not allowed or in the medians. The median down Broad Street and the traffic circle are right-of-ways and signs are not allowed at any time. Signs in rights-of-ways will be taken down. Every effort will be made to notify candidates to remove signs within 48 hours of notification or the city shall be forced to remove them. If the city removes signs they will be stored at the city site temporarily before disposal, but owner of signs may request to pick them up by calling the Public Works Office at (252)-639-7501. Signs obstructing traffic or causing a safety hazard could be removed immediately without notice.

Town of River Bend Sign Ordinance

Section 15.02.098 Certain Temporary Sign; Permit Exceptions and Additional Regulations.

(A) The following temporary signs are permitted without a zoning, special use, conditional use or sign permit. However, these signs shall conform to the requirements set forth below as well as all other applicable requirements of this subchapter except those contained in §§ 15.02.101 and 15.02.103.

(4) **Signs erected in connection with elections or political campaigns.** Election signs are permitted, provided that:

(A) One (1) sign shall be permitted per individual lot or parcel for each candidate for office or side of a ballot measure or issue; for a lot or parcel with frontage on a second street, one (1) additional sign for each candidate for office or side of a ballot measure or issue shall be permitted to front the second street.

(B) **Such signs shall be located on private property and not within the public-right-of-way or affixed to any improvement within such right-of-way (median, utility pole, traffic control device, bridge, guardrail, or other safety barrier), within a required sight distance triangle, or on Town property or buildings.** However, signs may be placed on designated areas of Town Hall property on Election Day under rules established by the Craven County Board of Elections and the Town Manager not inconsistent therewith.

(C) Such signs shall be located only on private property with the property occupant's consent (or, if unoccupied, the property owner's consent). It shall be presumed the property occupant, or property owner as the case may be, has given permission or consents to the sign's placement unless the property occupant or owner notifies the Town otherwise.

(D) **Such a sign shall not be erected more than forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting in Craven County, and shall be removed within ten (10) days following the date of any election or other event to which it refers.**

(E) Such a sign shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area per sign face or forty-two (42) inches in height.

(F) The property occupant or, in the case of an unoccupied property, the property owner, shall be responsible for violations contained therein.

Placement or displacement of political signs DOT

§ 136-32. Regulation of signs.

(a) Commercial Signs. - No unauthorized person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any warning or direction sign, marker, signal or light or imitation of any official sign, marker, signal or light erected under the provisions of G.S. 136-30, except in cases of emergency. No person shall erect or maintain upon any highway any traffic or highway sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial or political advertising, except as provided in subsections (b) through (e) of this section: Provided, nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the erection or maintenance of signs, markers, or signals bearing thereon the name of an organization authorized to erect the same by the Department of Transportation or by any local authority referred to in G.S. 136-31. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The Department of Transportation may remove any signs erected without authority or allowed to remain beyond the deadline established in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Compliant Political Signs Permitted. - During the period beginning on the 30th day before the beginning date of "one-stop" early voting under G.S. 163-227.2 and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day, persons may place political signs in the right-of-way of the State highway system as provided in this section. Signs must be placed in compliance with subsection (d) of this section and must be removed by the end of the period prescribed in this subsection.

(c) Definition. - For purposes of this section, "political sign" means any sign that advocates for political action. The term does not include a commercial sign.

(d) Sign Placement. - The permittee must obtain the permission of any property owner of a residence, business, or religious institution fronting the right-of-way where a sign would be erected. Signs must be placed in accordance with the following:

- (1) No sign shall be permitted in the right-of-way of a fully controlled access highway.
- (2) No sign shall be closer than three feet from the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (3) No sign shall obscure motorist visibility at an intersection.
- (4) No sign shall be higher than 42 inches above the edge of the pavement of the road.
- (5) No sign shall be larger than 864 square inches.
- (6) No sign shall obscure or replace another sign.

(e) Penalties for Unlawful Removal of Signs. - It is a Class 3 misdemeanor for a person to steal, deface, vandalize, or unlawfully remove a political sign that is lawfully placed under this section.

(f) Application Within Municipalities. - Pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, a city may by ordinance prohibit or regulate the placement of political signs on rights-of-way of streets located within the corporate limits of a municipality and maintained by the municipality. In the absence of an ordinance prohibiting or regulating the placement of political signs on the rights-of-way of streets located within a municipality and maintained by the municipality, the provisions of subsections (b) through (e) of this section shall apply. (1921, c. 2, s. 9(b); C.S., s. 3846(r); 1927, c. 148, ss. 56, 58; 1933, c. 172, s. 17; 1957, c. 65, s. 11; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; 1977, c. 464, s. 7.1; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 1030, s. 39; 1993, c. 539, s. 981; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c); 2011-408, s. 1.)

Complaints about the timing of placement, location of placement and ultimate removal are not matters that the county boards of elections or the State Board of Elections can address. The Craven County Board of Elections or SBOE does not enforce the placement of signs or investigate any alleged crimes associated with harming/removing the signs. Citizens should contact their local DOT District Office, or call the NCDOT toll free line at (877) 368-4968 during normal business hours, or contact each municipality, or the candidates.